

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. The position set forth in the Office Action has been carefully considered. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on a combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,498,655 ("Brooks") and U.S. Patent No. 5,420,406 ("Izawa"). All pending claims are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

One of the features recited in independent claims 1, 9, 10, and 17 is directed to notification of invalidating the document. For example, independent claim 1 requires a controller, *inter alia*, "to send data representing completion of the invalidation of the document to the server." Other independent claims contain recitations similar to those of independent claim 1. As described at, for example, page 16, lines 25-31 of the present specification, a specific exemplary embodiment of the invention involves a notification process where the printer controller 111 sends a message containing data 738 indicating completion of cutting the document to the content server 120 so that the content server 120 can initiate a refund process in exchange for the destroyed document. As such, according to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, such "data representing completion of the invalidation of the document" sent to the server can be an event for the server to trigger an important event (e.g., a refund or a billing transaction in general).

The Brooks patent was cited as describing the claimed "send[ing] data representing completion of the invalidation of the document to the server." The Office Action cited column 5, lines 43-65 of the Brooks patent as describing the above-identified claimed feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The cited portion generally describes notification to the *user* that the *replacement ticket* is on its way. First, and most importantly, such notification to the user has nothing to do with the claimed feature, i.e., sending data to the server. There is no description in the cited portion of Brooks that suggests sending the server the claimed data. As mentioned earlier, the claimed data sent to the server can serve a triggering event to the server. By contrast, notification to the user in Brooks can trigger nothing in the server. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that there should be clear distinction between sending data to the server as claimed, and notification to the user shown in Brooks. Brooks fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention in this regard.

Second, the claimed data sent to the server represents "completion of the invalidation of the document." The cited portion of Brooks fails to teach this feature as well. Specifically, Brooks describes that "the customer is notified that the replacement ticket is on its way." In short, this description is concerned with a *new* ticket which is being delivered, not the completed invalidation of the *older* document as claimed. Further, Brooks' cited portion is not concerned with whether the document has been invalidated or not. Nothing in Brooks suggests how information regarding completion of the invalidation of the document is sent to the server as claimed. Therefore, Brooks cannot affect the patentability of the invention in this regard as well.

The Izawa patent has been carefully reviewed, and found not to overcome the deficiencies of the Brooks patent as discussed above.

In view of the foregoing, the invention defined in independent claims 1, 9, 10, and 17, and their dependent claims is believed to be patentable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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